



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2016

To: ESTTA Officials & County Secretaries, School Games Organisers/Development Managers
Table Tennis England National & Area Development Teams, Participating Schools
and to all who have an interest in the development of School Based Table Tennis

LOOK BACK ~ CELEBRATE ~ PLAN AHEAD

- Where were you on 3rd June 1967?
- Were you playing table tennis for your school team?
- Did you play in the first National School Team Championships?
- Were you a member of the 1967 winning teams - the boys from **Mallory School, Lewisham** and the girls from **Rectory Manor School, Newham**? If so, **CONGRATULATIONS** to you, your teachers, coaches and supporters - also to the organisers of that event and those of successive years!
Of course, I am sure many of you are too young to have been involved - but read on.

We look forward to the 50th National School Team Championships with the finals to be staged at the Hinckley Leisure Centre on 16th April 2016 when we will congratulate the Butterfly School Team Champions in the eight events.

The School Team Championships have grown over the years. In 1967 there were just two events for Under 17 Boys and Girls. It was not until 1980 that the current age groups were fully established. A full list of ESTTA Team & Individual event champions - the 'Roll of Honour 1967/2015' can be found on the ESTTA website on the 'About ESTTA' section. This makes interesting reading - see how many current and past England players established themselves playing in ESTTA events. **We would welcome any former champions and past members of the ESTTA Executive to join us at Hinckley.** I am pleased to say that Gerald Gurney, founder General Secretary of ESTTA has agreed to come to the National Finals at Hinckley and intends to bring his display of Table Tennis memorabilia.

Not only has the number of events grown but year on year the number of participating teams entering the ESTTA Zone Finals has also risen. In 2009, the 51 ESTTA Counties entered 187 of their winning county teams - by 2015 this had grown to 250 teams. Will this total be exceeded this year? Of course, quantity is not everything - quality is just as, if not more, important.

As we approach this 50th Anniversary, I appeal to all schools who regularly compete in ESTTA events to offer their assistance in the organisation of county competitions. It is only right that those who benefit from participation play their part in the smooth running at County and National levels. The organisation of both schools and table tennis has changed dramatically over the last 50 years. The 'army' of school teachers who promoted the sport has now dwindled to a 'squad', ably supported by others. The growth of the sport of table tennis needs a strong grassroots base. Can you celebrate 2016 by 'enlisting' and offering your support to promote table tennis in schools and create a strong base for the next 50 years?

Dates for your diary - 2016

- Butterfly School Team Championships
 - Zone Finals - 30th/31st January (8 venues)
 - Regional Finals - 19th/20th March (4 venues)
 - National Final - 16th April (Hinckley Leisure Centre)
- Butterfly Individual Championship Finals - 23rd April (Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton)
- Schools' Internationals
 - Primary Schools' International - 1st/3rd April (Guernsey)
 - ISF World Schools' Table Tennis Championships - 2nd/8th April (Eilat, Israel)
 - Senior Schools' International - 24th/26th June (Ireland)
- ESTTA Annual General Meeting - 8th May (Wood Green Academy, Wednesbury)

Table Tennis England - Children & Young People Strategy

Table Tennis England are about to launch their Children & Young People Strategy. What are your needs to help you develop schools' table tennis? Is it better communication, readily available resources, more training opportunities or something else? Table Tennis England need to know. Although they have carried out a survey of requirements, there is no better group to ask than the recipients of this Newsletter - the practitioners. If you do not ask, you will never get! So please take the opportunity and send a brief email to me **listing your wants and needs**. I will collate the replies and send them on to the Table Tennis England Development Department.

ISF World Schools' Table Tennis Championships - 2nd/8th April 2016 - Eilat, Israel

Congratulations to Emily Bolton, Beth Cook, Grace Potter and Matjaz Sercer (NPC) from Grantham College and Theodore Achampong, Ryan Barnett, Eren Gozcu, Omar Khassal and Stephan Hastings (NPC) from London Academy who have been selected to compete in the Girls' and Boys' School Team events. They will be joined by Kate Cheer (Ifield Community College), Tin-Tin Ho (City of London School for Girls), Letitia McMullan (Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh), Denise Payet (Enfield County School) and Kate Hughes (NPC) along with Billy Forster (Eggescliffe Sixth Form College, Stockton), Tom Jarvis (Skegness Grammar School), Alex Ramsden (Northampton School for Boys), Alec Ward (Middlesbrough College) and Sam Perry (NPC) who will represent ESTTA in the National Selected Girls' and Boys' Team Championships. The Officials accompanying the Delegation are Gail Johns as Head of Delegation with Nico Caltabiano and Alex Mercer as the two umpires. We wish them every success!

Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships - 23rd April 2016

This year's event will be held at the Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton. The larger venue will allow us to increase the number of match tables from 24 to 32. This should improve the experience for the players and officials and create an earlier finishing time. I hope counties will be sending their full quota to this prestigious event.

*Note: I recommend that schools and SGOs **contact their County Secretary to ascertain when and where their qualifying Individual events will be held** in order to plan their participation. A reminder that only winners of the County Finals progress to take part in the Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships.*

Press Cutting Competition

Calling all budding journalists!

Publicity is good for your school, your county, ESTTA and their sponsors. Why not enter this year's competition and win one of several prizes of equipment worth some £100 for your school. We look forward to receiving your entries from the local press, school website, newsletter ... or other media outlets. The valuable prizes, kindly donated by Butterfly, are there for you to claim if you have taken part in either the Team or Individual Competitions at any level.

And finally – IF THE RECIPIENT NAMED ON THE ENVELOPE IS NO LONGER IN POST, IS AT A DIFFERENT ADDRESS, HAS A DIFFERENT TITLE/REMIT OR NO LONGER WISHES TO REMAIN ON THE ESTTA MAILING LIST – PLEASE INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY.

Keep in touch www.estta.org.uk

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